



# Lent Season Gathering

## Palm Sunday





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# Welcome

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We gather together to prepare our hearts toward the mystery of God's redemptive embrace in the death and resurrection of Christ. We are spending this hour, and this Lent season, mindful of our sin and our broken world, longing for entrance into the glory of the Kingdom of God.

For the Lord tells his people:

**“Even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”**

**<sup>13</sup>Rend your heart  
and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and compassionate**

(Joel 2.12-13a)

As the days get longer, we are aware that the Light of the World is coming; although buried, he will rise; although despised, he will reign; although he was rejected, we confess that Jesus is Lord.



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# Blessed the Lord

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Bless the Lord, My Soul

And Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, My Soul

Who leads me into life



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## Confession



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On this last Sunday before Easter, we confess our sins before the coming King. We join the psalmist in our confession and desire for forgiveness.



Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

**<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity  
And cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
And my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, I have sinned  
And done what is evil in Your sight,  
So that You are justified when You speak  
And blameless when You judge.

**<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation  
And sustain me with a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners will be converted to You.

Psalm 51.1-15

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## Lenten Candles / Silence

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Just as sin and evil put the Light of the World in a tomb, we extinguish this candle as a reminder of the power of sin.

As we walk with Jesus toward the cross, let us take pause to reflect on our sin, the injury it causes our brothers and sisters, and its offense to God.

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## Praise to the King

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The 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a communal psalm for a people exalting their King. We join the people of Israel in calling out the goodness of our heavenly king.



Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
**For His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

<sup>2</sup> Oh let Israel say,

**“His lovingkindness is everlasting.”**

<sup>3</sup> Oh let the house of Aaron say,

**“His lovingkindness is everlasting.”**

<sup>4</sup> Oh let those who fear the LORD say,

**“His lovingkindness is everlasting.”**

<sup>5</sup> From *my* distress I called upon the LORD;

**The LORD answered me *and set me in a large place.***

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is for me; I will not fear;

**What can man do to me?**



<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and song,

**And He has become my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup> The sound of joyful shouting and salvation is in the tents of the righteous;

**The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted;

**The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.**

<sup>17</sup> I will not die, but live,

**And tell of the works of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> <sup>[g]</sup>The LORD has disciplined me severely,

**But He has not given me over to death.**

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness;

**I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;

**The righteous will enter through it.**

<sup>21</sup> I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me,

**And You have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders rejected

**Has become the chief corner stone.**

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD'S doing;

**It is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day which the LORD has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup> O LORD, do save, we beseech You;

**O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;

**We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and He has given us light;

Psalm 118





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# Hosanna in the Highest

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Hosanna in the Highest!

*Hosanna in the Highest*

Hosanna in the Highest!

*Hosanna in the Highest*

Hosanna in the Highest!

*Hosanna in the Highest*

**Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord**

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## The Triumphal Entry

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This day marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred time of the Christian year. The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem to the praise of his people. They know he is the King, but many do not know His Kingdom. Just like today, many wanted a Kingdom where the wicked are punished; but Jesus showed we all deserve punishment. Many wanted a king that brings power and authority to the people; Jesus came to serve and to give.



As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, <sup>2</sup> and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he <sup>[a]</sup>will send it back here.” <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they \*untied it. <sup>5</sup> Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup> They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission. <sup>7</sup> They \*brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it.



<sup>8</sup> And many spread their coats in the road, and others *spread* leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting:

**“Hosanna!**

**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;**

**<sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David;  
Hosanna in the highest!”**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem *and came* into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

Mark 11.1-11

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## Shouts of “Hosanna”

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The people accompanying Jesus to Jerusalem shouted “Hosanna”. This Hebrew expression, which can be translated as “save us, we pray”, is admitting our need for the King and at the same time exalting Him for his acts of deliverance.

For the Lord’s Kingdom that has arrived, fulfilling the demand of punishment for sin, we shout *Hosanna!* And for the Lord’s Kingdom that is to come, to consummate his reign by removing sin and renewing the world, we shout *Hosanna!*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**Hosanna in the highest!**

Jesus is coming!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

He’s riding on a donkey!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

Open the gates!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

Wave the branches!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

Spread out your coats!  
**Shout Hosanna!**

Do not be afraid!

**Shout Hosanna!**

The Kingdom of God is here!

**Shout Hosanna!**

Glory in the highest heaven!

**Shout Hosanna!**

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## The Servant of the Lord

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After his arrival, Jesus clarified that he must suffer and die. Although Christ came and established His kingdom, he came as a humble servant whose work was to give of himself, even to the cross. We read the prophet Isaiah speak of the Servant of the Lord and his suffering that brings redemption to God's people.



<sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,  
That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a  
word.

He awakens *Me* morning by morning,  
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened My ear;  
And I was not disobedient  
Nor did I turn back.

<sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who strike *Me*,  
And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard;  
I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> For the Lord GOD helps Me,  
Therefore, I am not disgraced;  
Therefore, I have set My face like flint,  
And I know that I will not be ashamed.

<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates Me is near;  
Who will contend with Me?  
Let us stand up to each other;  
Who has a case against Me?  
Let him draw near to Me.



<sup>9</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me;  
Who is he who condemns Me?  
Behold, they will all wear out like a garment;  
The moth will eat them.

<sup>10</sup> Who is among you that fears the LORD,  
That obeys the voice of His servant,  
That walks in darkness and has no light?  
Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his  
God

Isaiah 50.4-10

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## He Will Hold Me Fast

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When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He can hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold,  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold,  
He will hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.*

I am precious in His sight,  
He will hold me fast;  
Those He saves are His delight.  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.*

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight,  
When He comes at last!

*He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Savior loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.*

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## The Cross is our Hope

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During Holy Week, we remember Christ preparing himself to fulfill the Father's plan of redemption. We recognize that his work on the Cross is the image of our everlasting hope. We have faith that, through Christ sins, are forgiven and we are made heirs to God's Kingdom.



<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,  
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know* God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the <sup>22</sup> message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

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## Prayer for the Journey

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Merciful Father, as we journey to the cross with your Son, we ask for your Spirit to be ever present in our lives. We seek to be obedient to your will, as Christ was obedient unto the cross.

Lord Jesus, we welcome you as the King, triumphant in our world over sin and death. We have joy in the victory you achieved through your sacrifice.

Jesus, we live in and embrace the Kingdom that you establish. Although your reign has not driven out all sin and darkness from our world, we live the peace that your Kingdom brings in our life and in our communities. Give us grace to live with each other as children of your Kingdom, in love, charity, and faithfulness to one another.

We proclaim that we shall walk in the way of the Lord. Though there be fear and doubt, he will hold us fast. Though there be suffering and pain, we have victory and redemption.

May the name of Christ Jesus be made great in all the earth.

We pray these things with confidence in your goodness and unending love for us.

In the name of your Son, Christ Jesus, Amen

